

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 AF-10 ARA-11

EA-11 NEA-10 OIC-04 RSR-01 /212 W
----- 017520

R 211730 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7890

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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DEPARTMENT PASS STR

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, BE

SUBJECT: ARTICLE XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUMMARY: GOB FONMIN OFFICIAL IN CHARGE EC- THIRD COUNTRY
RELATIONS (JANSSEN) INFORMS US THAT FOREIGN MINISTER
VAN ELSLANDE MAY PROPOSE IN JUNE 25-26 EC (FONMINS) COUNCIL
MEETING THAT COMMISSION BE AUTHORIZED TO EXPLORE WITH U. S.
POSSIBILITY OF OFFERING COMPENSATION FOR A FEW HIGHLY SENSITIVE
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PRODUCTS FOR WHICH CLEAR CASE OF DAMAGE CAN BE MADE. JANSSEN ASKED FOR LIST OF THREE OR FOUR SUCH PRODUCTS WHICH VAN ELSLANDE COULD USE AS EXAMPLES IN MAKING PROPOSAL. WHILE VAN ELSLANDE HAS NOT HIMSELF APPROVED THIS PROCEDURE (HE IS ACCOMPANING KING BAUDOUIN ON VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA), IT HAS BEEN WORKED OUT BY DIR- GEN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DAVIGNON AND DIR- GEN FOR TRADE DE DOBBELEER, AND WILL BE RECOMMENDED TO HIM AFTER HIS RETURN TO BRUSSELS ON JUNE 24. ACTION REQUESTED: IF DEPT APPROVES THIS APPROACH, PLEASE FORWARD INFORMATION REQUESTED PARA 4. END SUMMARY.

2. JANSSEN REPORTED THAT COMMITTEE 113 MEETING JUNE 18 HAD BEEN INCONCLUSIVE; C113 HAD SIMPLY AUTHORIZED COMMISSION TO PLACE QUESTION BEFORE EC COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 25-26, WHERE 24:6 WILL BE MAIN AGENDA ITEM. AS REPORTED BY USEC, COMMISSION WAS AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE COMPENSATIONS ONLY WITH COMMISSION-DETERMINED CREDITOR COUNTRIES, NOT WITH DEBIT COUNTRIES, INCLUDING US AND JAPAN AMONG OTHERS. FEAR WAS EXPRESSED BY SOME THAT EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH US WOULD SET PRECEDENT INVITING CLAIMS FROM OTHER DEBIT COUNTRIES.

3. ACCORDING TO JANSSEN, BELGIAN STRATEGY FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS HAS BEEN WORKED OUT BY DAVIGNON AND DE DOBBELEER AND WILL BE RECOMMENDED TO FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE UPON HIS RETURN FROM YUGOSLAVIA. IDEA IS FOR VAN ELSLANDE, WHO WILL PRESIDE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS JUNE 25-26, TO PROPOSE THAT EC COMMISSION OFFER TO COMPENSATE US FOR TRADE DAMAGE ON A FEW PRODUCTS WHICH, FOR POLITICAL OR OTHER REASONS, ARE HIGHLY SENSITIVE AND FOR WHICH VERY CLEAR CASE OF DAMAGE CAN BE MADE. EMBOFF PROTESTED TO JANSSEN THAT THIS IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM MALMGREN- RENNER PROPOSAL MADE RECENTLY TO DAVIGNON AND DE DOBBELEER FOR EXPLORATORY TALKS, AND THAT USG MAY WELL FIND IT COMPLETELY UNSATISFACTORY. JANSSEN WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT GOB SEES PROPOSAL AS TACTIC TO GET SOME US- EC DIALOG STARTED, WHICH ONCE UNDER WAY MIGHT BE BROADENED TO EXPLORE FURTHER US CONCERNS. JANSSEN ASKED WHETHER WE COULD PROVIDE A SHORT LIST (THREE OR FOUR ITEMS) OF US PRODUCTS AS DESCRIBED ABOVE FOR VAN ELSLANDE TO USE AS EXAMPLES IN MAKING HIS PROPOSAL. EMBOFF AGREED TO PASS REQUEST ALONG BUT EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS AS TO ACCEPTABILITY OF THIS APPROACH TO US. JANSSEN SAID THAT, IF USG AGREED TO PROVIDE LIST, IT SHOULD CONTAIN CLEAR JUSTIFICATION FOR COMPENSATION. EXAMPLE HE CITED (NOT ESPECIALLY FOR US) WAS MUTTON, WHICH WAS DUTY FREE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN UK BEFORE ENLARGEMENT AND WILL EVENTUALLY FACT SIZEABLE XCT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IF WASHINGTON AGENCIES AGREE TO PROVIDE LIST, IT IS NEEDED FOR DISCUSSION AT FOREIGN MINISTRY ON SUNDAY, JUNE 24.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY UNDER IMPRESSION THAT BELGIAN PROPOSAL

WELL- INTENDED EFFORT TO BREAK 24:6 IMPASSE.
STRAUSZ- HUPE

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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